



Illinois Department of Natural Resources

One Natural Resources Way Springfield, Illinois 62702-1271
<http://dnr.state.il.us>

Pat Quinn, Governor
Marc Miller, Director

August 27, 2010

Mr. Rob Clark
Tazewell Soil & Water Conservation District
1440 Valle Vista Blvd.
Pekin, IL 61554

Re: T-1371 Re-enrollment of CRP acreage and Light Disking - Pekin
Endangered Species Consultation Program
Project Number(s): 1100495
County: Tazewell

Dear Mr. Clark:

The Department received your submission, via the Department's Ecological Compliance Assessment Tool (EcoCAT) website, on behalf of the Soil and Water Conservation District, regarding this project in Section 13, Township 23 North, Range 7 West for consultation in accordance with the *Illinois Endangered Species Protection Act* [520 ILCS 10/11], the *Illinois Natural Areas Preservation Act* [525 ILCS 30/17], and Title 17 *Illinois Administrative Code* Part 1075.

The project involves re-enrolling the expiring CRP acreage of dry land corners into the CRP SAFE program as existing grasses that have already been established and a mid-management practice of light disking of the brome grasses.

The project is located directly east of a recent record for the State-listed threatened **Illinois Chorus Frog**, *Pseudacris illinoensis*, and an older record for the State-listed endangered **Yellow Mud Turtle**, *Kinosternon flavescens*. Since both of these species are mobile, and appropriate habitat exists on this parcel that either species could use, it is likely that either could traverse, forage, and/or hibernate within the parcel at various times within their life cycle. The Department has completed its review of the project and determined that the action may have an adverse impact on either of these protected species. To minimize potential impacts, the Department recommends the following measures be implemented by the applicant and incorporated in the Tazewell County Soil & Water Conservation District's project authorization.

1. The Department recommends that all disking activities be conducted in the fall. Disking could be detrimental if done during spring or early to mid summer. During the spring, the Illinois Chorus Frogs move from sandy soils to breeding ponds. Commencing around early June, the newly transformed froglets move back to their overwintering sand habitats. The Illinois Mud Turtle is most active during May and June and begins estivation during the summer. Disking during the summer months could adversely impact either species as they move to and from wetlands for estivation or nesting.

2. The Department recommends that all crews, and on-site personnel, be educated and informed about both of these species before work begins. Photos of both adult and juvenile Yellow Mud Turtles and adult Illinois Chorus Frogs should be distributed, and a site management plan for responding to potential encounters with either, should be discussed.
3. If either species is encountered on site, crews should be instructed to immediately stop working and contact the Department's Heritage Biologist (Michelle Simone, 309/446-9181) - keeping in mind it is a criminal act to handle a listed species. Personnel on site should watch the species until the proper authority arrives to alleviate the situation, keeping at a respectable distance. If either moves, crews should mark the spot they first saw the species and the last spot it was seen.

Consultation on the part of the Department is completed. In accordance with 17 Ill. Adm. Code 1075.40(h), the Soil & Water Conservation District must notify the Department of its decision regarding these recommendations, whether they will:

- Allow the action to proceed as originally planned;
- Require the action to be modified per Department recommendations (please specify which measures if not all will be required); or
- Forgo the action.

This consultation is valid for two years unless new information becomes available that was not previously considered; the proposed action is modified; or additional species, essential habitat, or Natural Areas are identified in the vicinity. If the project has not been implemented within two years of the date of this letter, or any of the above listed conditions develop, a new consultation is necessary.

The natural resources review reflects the information existing in the Illinois Natural Heritage Database at the time of the project submittal, and should not be regarded as a final statement on the site being considered, nor should it be a substitute for detailed site surveys or field surveys required for environmental assessments. If additional protected species are encountered during the project's implementation, you must comply with the applicable statutes and regulations. Also, note that termination does not imply IDNR's authorization or endorsement of the proposed action.

Please contact me if you have questions regarding this consultation review.

Cordially,



Kathi Davis
Division of Ecosystems and Environment
Impact Assessment Section
Office of Realty & Environmental Planning
217-785-5500

enclosure

cc: Byron Paulsen, IDNR/District 7/ Wildlife
Michelle Simone, IDNR/District 5/Heritage